

BENNINGTON

A BIRDSEYE VIEW OF BENNINGTON.

Bennington is located in the extreme southwest corner of Vermont bordering on New York and Massachusetts. It is a village of over 600 inhabitants in a town of over 2,000 inhabitants and in a county of over 2,500 inhabitants.

The industries of the town comprise one woolen mill, capacity 40 hands; eight cotton and woolen hosiery mills, capacity 100 hands; one shoddy mill, capacity 100 hands; two paper mills, two soap manufactories; two knitting machine manufactories, one iron and brass foundry, two needle manufactories, one lightning stopper manufactory (all the paper, soda water and lightning stopper jars used in the world are made here); two double pointed truck manufactories, one cycle machine manufactory, one clotheswringer and mangle manufactory, one sash manufactory, two wire-rope manufactories, two manufactories of fancy articles in wood, two wood novelty works, two sash and blind factories, three woodworking establishments, one dry board, fulling machine and dye tank manufactory; one iron stone pottery, two machine shops, one creamery, three grist mills, one saw-mill, two wood and three paper box manufactories, one galvanized iron cave trough and conductor manufactory, three yellow pine, two machine and several iron mines and several dolomite and lime stone quarries.

Bennington's evidence of intelligence

the old town that is so full of reminiscences of the state and nation when they were in their infancy, and if so the more reason for paying particular attention to what follows: Don't it kind of give you home-like feeling to hear from old Bennington ones more? Did you ever go shooting partridge, woodcock or gray squirrels in the woods on the hillside overlooking the village spread out in the basin lying at your feet? Did you ever fish for trout in the early spring down

native town, containing more about people and localities you used to know long ago than half a dozen letters.—J. H. Livingston in *Bennington Reformer*, June 16, 1890.

JOHN GRIFFITH McCULLOUGH OF NORTH BENNINGTON.

President of the bank and a prominent figure in the affairs of the state of Vermont, was born near Newark, Delaware. He is of Scotch-Welsh lineage, his parents both dying before he was seven years of age. His education was completed at Delaware College from which he graduated with the first honors of his class before reaching his majority. He commenced the study of law in the office of St. George Tucker Campbell, a most

distinguished himself by his eloquence and courage and became a prominent figure in the cause of freedom. He was elected to the assembly in 1842 and served with such distinction that he was returned to the senate the following year, though the district which he represented had been under the control of the democrats for a number of years. So well did he perform his duties that the following year he was nominated and elected Attorney-General of the state by an overwhelming majority. He continued to hold this office for four years until 1847 when he met defeat with the rest of the state ticket. For the following five years he was engaged in the practice of law at San Francisco. In 1851 he came east and married Eliza Hall, daughter of Trevor W. Park, and grand-daughter of ex-Gov. Hillard Hall, Vermont's early historian. Returning to San Francisco he continued his law practice for two years when he removed to North Bennington to take up his permanent home. Although he has not been an active practitioner in the state he has achieved a high degree of success in railroad, commercial and banking affairs. He was elected the first president of the Chicago & Erie Railroad, was president of the Bennington & Rutland, is a director of the New York Security and Trust Co., The Fidelity and Casualty Insurance Co. of New York, and is largely interested in other corporations. Politics has always enlisted the interest of Gen. McCullough whether on the Atlantic or Pacific coast and he takes an active part in the discussion of questions of the day. No political campaign has passed since 1874 without his voice having been heard in advocacy of the republican party. Gen. McCullough is of a genial nature, social in his taste, dignified and gentlemanly, an excellent type of American statesman.

FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF NORTH BENNINGTON.

There is nothing mysterious in a bank. It is simply a place where money is deposited, either with or without interest, and from whence it may be withdrawn, either with or without notice, according to the rules of the institution; a place where money is loaned on what is deemed sufficient security, and where drafts



J. G. McCULLOUGH.

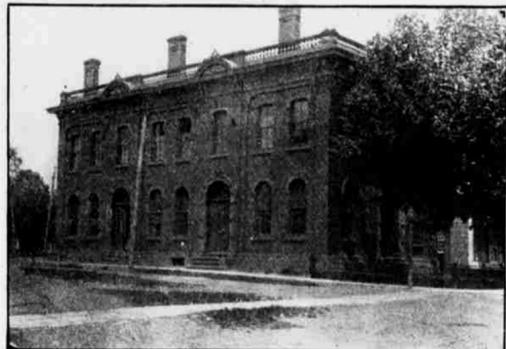
the river, or up the Furnace brook, or along the Boaring Branch, or the numberless smaller streams that come tumbling down out of the Woodford and Clarendon mountains, streams that have names that you can readily call to mind? You have of course angled in Big pond, Little pond or Sucker pond (now called Lake Hancock in honor of Lawrence's ex-cadre, climb the rocks or roll on the grass and look through the treetops at the blue dome above? Remember what delightful drives you used to have up the east road, or down Pownall way, or over the hills to Hoosick, or across the flats toward the north village and back over the hills where the towering monument now stands? Of course the monument was not there in your day, and the bronze cat was not reared on its pedestal near the site where the old Catamount tavern stood, where starched was cradled when your father, or maybe your grandfather, was a boy. Of course you were proud and still are proud of those grand old patriot names, Stark, Allen, Parson, Dewey, et al., names still often alluded to in the columns of the village newspaper. And in the fall of the year when the leaves were turning scarlet and yellow and brown, and the mountain ash hung out its red banners, didn't it all seem like the heroes of fairyland? And when the winter's snow and ice bound everything in a death-like embrace you had great sport gliding over the glare ice on Benton pond or sliding down Plum or Harmon hill? Ah, yes, it was very nice, and it was long ago. You were young then, and susceptible to impressions, and you think you have outgrown such foolishness now. Well, this stern battling with adversity does rather knock the sentiment out of a fellow, doesn't it? You are now overwhelmed with business worries and cares, and you have no time to answer friendly letters from the old home. As a matter of fact very few men immersed in active business cares find it convenient to answer personal letters, and so the only letter that comes to memory that binds them to the old home is gradually severed. And yet there are few men who do not enjoy getting letters from the old home. Occurrences that would in no way interest them were they back on the old stamping ground take on a new color and a new meaning when viewed through the glamour of a thousand intervening miles. Truly, it is news to them then to hear that Jones' son and Brown's daughter are wed. You didn't move in the same circle, perhaps, with the Joneses and the Browns when you lived in Bennington, and yet when a long day's work is over you like to hear about them. And better than a long gossip letter from the old home each week are the regular visits of some good newspaper from your

successful jury lawyer of Philadelphia, after which he attended the law school of the University of Pennsylvania. He received the degree of LL. B. from this institution and was admitted to the bar of the supreme court of Pennsylvania in



S. B. HALL.

1850. At this time failing health necessitated a change of climate and he sailed for San Francisco, afterward removing to Sacramento, California, where he was admitted to the bar of the supreme court of California. It was in 1861 that



FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF NORTH BENNINGTON.

Gen. Sumner superseded Fort Sidney Johnston as commander of Albert Alcatraz and during these trying times when it was not known that California would be saved to the Union, Gen. McCullough

of exchange are issued for the obtaining of money at other banks in distant localities. And yet some people think there is something mysterious about a bank and the power and influence it has. That it does exert a certain power and influence cannot be denied, but it is seldom indeed that that there is any mystery or attempt at concealment about it. The power and influence are for the good of the community, and most business men become acquainted with the exercise of this good influence some time in their business careers. That the First National Bank of North Bennington has had an influence for good, no business man will gainsay. In its career of thirty-five years it has occupied a prominent position in helping to maintain and advance the best interests of the village. It was organized in 1861, and its charter was number 194 among the banks of the country that organized under the national banking act. It has conducted a general banking business ever since under the management of the ablest and best business men of the village. Today it has a capital stock of \$100,000, and a surplus and undivided profits aggregating in round numbers \$60,000. Its average total deposits range from \$125,000 to \$130,000, all of which is a very creditable showing for a village of the size of North Bennington. Its officers are: J. G. McCullough, president; F. B. Jennings, vice president; S. B. Hall, cashier, and a board of directors, consisting of the three gentlemen named and T. L. Park, C. E.

Welling, who are the officers of the present company. This substantial old structure, which has stood on the edge of the stream and served for milling purposes for sixty-seven years, is a monument to the solid builders of those early days. It is four stories high and about forty feet wide by eighty long. Some time in the sixties an addition twenty by eighty feet was added to the mill, and it is in these quarters where The Stark Paper Company is manufacturing paper today. The

company also has another mill in Shaftsbury, known as the State Line mill. The one in North Bennington is known as the Parson Creek mill. The product consists of curtain and wall papers, a specialty being made of the latter at the present time. These paper hangings are of a high class—not the figured papers, but of solid colors—and are used extensively in fine decorations. The output averages about 1200 tons a year and employment is given to forty hands. The papers are sold through H. G. Craig & Co. of New York. Messrs. Welling are old residents of Bennington, well and most favorably known throughout the county and as residents of North Bennington have always had the best inter-

ests of the village at heart. They are both directors of the First National Bank of North Bennington. E. D. Welling is treasurer of the Republican State committee and has been a member of the committee for six years. He has been town auditor for fourteen years and county auditor nearly ten years. He has been frequently prevailed upon to accept the nomination for the legislature, but has steadfastly declined. He takes a great interest in the success of his party and candidly of his friends.

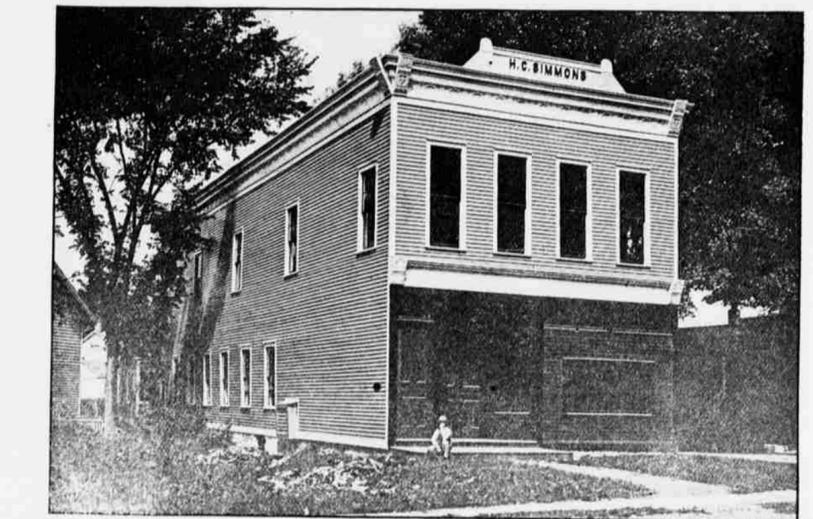
W. GEORGE SHAW.

Postmaster at North Bennington. The postoffice here is located in a part of the First National Bank building in a convenient place near the center of the village and is presided over by one of North Bennington's most popular men. Mr. Shaw was appointed by President McKinley in April, 1900, taking charge

Welling, E. D. Welling and H. P. McCullough. All are prominent men in the business and financial affairs of the village, and have the entire confidence and respect of the community. Mr. R. A. Jones fills the position of teller. The bank does the usual banking business of receiving deposits, making loans, discounting commercial paper and issuing drafts and letters of credit. Its correspondents are the First National Bank of New York and the Exchange National Bank of Boston. It owns the building in which its business is conducted, and has a convenient banking room, with adjoining committee and directors' rooms and is supplied with a large fire and burglar proof safe.

THE STARK PAPER COMPANY.

Manufacturers of Hanging and Curtain Papers, North Bennington. C. E. Welling, president and E. D. Welling, treasurer. Among the great industries that have assumed immense proportions during the last quarter of a century paper making stands in the front rank. The combined daily output of the mills of the United States is now about 12,000 tons. This product comes from most parts of the union, but it is safe to say that New England produces far more than any other one section. The little village of North Bennington, with its varied industrial enterprises, is not without its paper mill. In fact, for the past forty years one of the chief industries of the place has been the making of paper. The business was established by Thatcher & Welling in the early fifties, and continued by them until the incorporation of The Stark Paper Company in 1879, conducted in the old stone grist mill built



H. C. SIMMONS' NEW BOILER WORKS.

by Edward M. Welling, father of C. E. Welling and grandfather of E. D. Welling, who are the officers of the present company. This substantial old structure, which has stood on the edge of the stream and served for milling purposes for sixty-seven years, is a monument to the solid builders of those early days. It is four stories high and about forty feet wide by eighty long. Some time in the sixties an addition twenty by eighty feet was added to the mill, and it is in these quarters where The Stark Paper Company is manufacturing paper today. The

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val and business work make him eminently qualified for the conduct of the mill business and the village is fortunate in securing him for its postmaster. He devotes his personal attention to the affairs of the office and employs the most competent assistants. His portrait, as well as the other postmasters of the state appear in this issue.

H. C. SIMMONS.

Manufacturers of Boilers and Steam Heating Plants, North Bennington. The Simmons boiler works is one of the oldest institutions in the state and can show a record of continuous business by one family which doubtless extends over a greater period than that of any other business house in Vermont. The business was begun as a tin shop by G. W. Simmons in North Bennington in 1828, and from that little tin shop started sev-



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enty-one years ago has gradually developed the present boiler making industry, which is known and patronized far beyond the borders of either village, town, county or state. There are over a thousand boilers of the Simmons manufacture in use in various parts of the country. In North Adams there are two hundred and fifty of them nearly fifty in Bennington, besides large numbers in Troy, Springfield, Greenfield and other manufacturing towns. These facts alone speak sufficiently for the quality and workmanship of the boilers and no words of commendation here could add to their well known high reputation. The original proprietor of the business, G. W. Simmons, was succeeded by his son, Geo.



H. T. CUSHMAN.

H. Simmons, who ran the business for twenty-five years, and he in turn was succeeded by another and younger son, the present proprietor, H. C. Simmons, who has conducted the business for twenty years. Quite a remarkable record for one small family, a father and two sons conducting a business for nearly three-quarters of a century, and Mr. H. C. Simmons looks to be good for twenty years more of active business. He is an energetic and enterprising man and must be a hustler to have so successfully managed the business for so long a time. He has been city commissioner and placed so many boilers in different parts of the country. While Mr. Simmons makes boilers for almost all steam power purposes he has the just winter demand his chief attention to setting up steam heating plants, for which his works have a most excellent reputation. He has recently erected a three-story commodious

structure an engraving of which is shown herewith. He employs anywhere from ten to twenty-five hands, according to the amount of work on hand, and the shop always present an active, busy scene and have long been one of the prominent features of North Bennington. As a matter of course Mr. Simmons is well known throughout the country and is one of the influential business men of North Bennington village, where he is vice president of the Board of Trade. Mr. Simmons is just about to commence the erection of a 115x26 two-story building on the present site, which will afford the much needed additional room for manufacturing.

H. T. CUSHMAN MFG. CO.

Manufacturers of Decorative and Artistic Furniture, Bennington, North Bennington, Vt. H. T. Cushman, president, John Henry Cushman, vice president, Arthur H. Cushman, treasurer; M. E. Mattison, secretary. This concern to-day is the recognized leader in the manufacture of goods in its line, both in this country and in Europe. The present line consists of a very extensive variety, some of which are mounted with silks, imported French woven tapestries, oil paintings and a variety of other artistic fabrics, ranging in price from fifty cents to \$50 each. Easels, music cabinets, jardiniere stands, saloirs, wall pockets, in all the different designs. This business was originated by Mr. H. T. Cushman in 1841, and has been carried on continuously ever since. The company was recently incorporated with an authorized capital stock of \$25,000. It occupies the stone factory on River street, which has a capacity of 35,000 feet of floor surface, well fitted with machinery well adapted to their manufacture, employing on the average from sixty to seventy persons, with an average pay-roll of about \$40,000 per week. It is one of the most perfectly equipped plants in the country, having water and steam power, electric lights and the sprinkler system against fire. In the process of manufacture lumber comes in from the lumber yards by means of a railroad constructed for the purpose, leading into the basement, where it is cut to dimensions, lifted on an elevator to the next floor, where it is cut to shapes, either by sawing, shaping with a molder or turned on automatic fancy wood turning lathes, then to the next floor, where the external finishes are put on and the articles stored, thence to the next floor above, where the goods are stored and packed for shipping. An average of 250,000 feet of lumber, principally oak, is consumed yearly, and of fabrics for the upholstering department

250,000 yards. The woven tapestries are imported from France to which market the company is constantly shipping their own productions, as well as to other foreign countries. Four traveling salesmen are employed, covering the entire United States, Canada, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. The company has an office in New York city, an agency in Berlin and in London. Mr. A. T. Cushman, president of the company, who originated the business is one of Bennington county's most prominent citizens. He makes his home in North Bennington, where the factory is located, and where he is highly esteemed as neighbor, citizen and business man. He has for the past five years been president of the village, and is at present president of the Board of Health and vice president of the North Bennington Board of Trade.

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BATTLE MONUMENT

and thrif is found in its Board of Trade, Young Men's Christian Association, Young Men's Association, Free Library, Masonic, Odd Fellows, Grand Army of the Republic, Sons of Veterans, Boy Men, Knights of Pythias, Foresters, Knights of Columbus, Good Templars, Father Mathew, Ancient Order of Hibernians, Young Woman's Club and a number of church, social and literary organizations. Bennington has nine churches, one costing \$125,000, one \$75,000 and one \$25,000; a \$50,000 opera house, the finest in New England, outside the largest cities, also a good public hall, good graded schools, and fourteen district schools; a Soldiers' Home, with hospital and chapel attached, an average of 100 inmates, with 200 acres of ground in connection; the highest single jet fountain in the world (192 feet); the tallest battle monument in the world (226 feet); free mail delivery system; electric light system; public water system, gravity; 200 feet head from springs in the Green mountains; complete sewerage system; electric railway connecting the two villages and the village of Hoosick Falls (600 inhabitants); twelve miles away; Gamewell electric fire alarm system; a splendid fire department with four hose companies, one hook and ladder company, one hand, two chemical and one steam fire engine; stone crusher and steam road roller; two national banks and one savings bank.

Bennington builds from fifty to one hundred private dwellings a year, some of the richest costing from \$500 to \$50,000.

Many city people summer in Bennington. The village lies in a broad basin 60 feet above tide water, with mountains on three sides, whose elevations tower from 250 to 320 feet above the sea level. It has magnificent scenery, delightful drives, numberless trout lakes and streams, splendid fishing and several grand summer hotels and cottages among the mountains.

Bennington has good railroad facilities. It is the county seat and a fine farming district. Its main stream furnishes more than 100 horse power to its manufacturing. It can at small cost supply more than 2000 electrical horse power to new industries at a nominal price per horse power. Bennington has vast undeveloped resources for the use of the manufacturer, the resident citizen and the summer sojourner.

Perhaps you were born and reared in the old historic town of Bennington, Vt.;



RESIDENCE OF J. G. McCULLOUGH.